

Applicants have amended the Abstract to remove the reference numerals contained therein. A marked-up version showing the changes made to the Abstract is attached hereto. No new matter has been added.

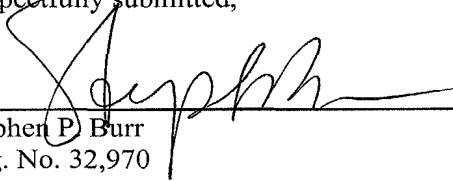
If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

June 21, 2001

Date



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Changes to page 14, lines 12-15, are as follows:

Embodiments of the DNA microarray included in embodiments of the biochip according to the present invention will be explained below with reference to FIGS. 1 to ~~16~~17.

Changes to page 39, lines 1-15, are as follows:

In the embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIGS. 16 and 17, for example, a first layer spot 80A, which is formed on the base plate 10, has a so-called doughnut-shaped configuration in which a peripheral portion 120 (see FIG. ~~16~~17) is ridged, for example, by adjusting the discharge power or the like of the micropipette 34. Further, after the spot 80A having the doughnut-shaped configuration is dried, a spot 80B, which contains a different DNA fragment and which has a substantially circular planar configuration, is formed on the spot 80A. Accordingly, the spots 80A, 80B, which contain the different samples respectively, can be formed at an identical spot formation position. In this case, it is possible to greatly reduce the arrangement area for the spot 80. It is possible to miniaturize the DNA microarray 20 itself.

8. (Amended) A biochip according to claim ~~any~~
~~one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein said spots based on said
sample solution are formed by means of an ink-jet
system.

Changes to the Abstract are as follows:

ABSTRACT

When the genetic analysis is performed by using a DNA microarray, the inspection accuracy is improved. A sample solution is supplied onto a base plate-10 to prepare the DNA microarray-20 comprising a large number of spots-80 based on the sample solution arranged on the base plate-10. In the microarray-20, the planar configuration of the spot-80 is substantially circular, and a plurality of spots having different spot sizes are formed on the base plate.

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